

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 214441

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS MILI HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: 381 ST MAC MEETING

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE HAVE NOW EXTRACTED FROM THE NORTH KOREANS ALL THE ASSURANCES AS TO THE SAFETY OF OUR PERSONNEL THAT WE CAN EXPECT TO GET. AT THE AUGUST 28 MAC MEETING THEY STATED THAT SUCH ASSURANCES WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF IN THE JSA ARRANGEMENTS.

2. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO SECURE FROM NORTH KOREAN SIDE ANY MORE EXPLICIT APOLOGY OR PROMISE TO PUNISH THOSE GUILTY OF PERPETRATING AUGUST 18 INCIDENT. SINCE THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE AGREED TO REMOVE THEIR GUARD POSTS ON OUR SIDE AND SINCE WE HAVE NONE ON THEIR SIDE, WE HAVE ALREADY GAINED A CLEAR
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ADVANTAGE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS IMPERATIVE

FOR US NOW TO TRY TO CLOSE OUT THIS INCIDENT WHILE OUR FORCE AUGMENTATION REMAINS IN KOREA AND WHILE IT IS STILL EVIDENT THAT THE NORTH HAS BACKED DOWN AND IS PREPARED TO MAKE THE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS IT HAS ALREADY AGREED TO AS A RESULT OF OUR STRONG REACTION TO THE AUGUST 18 MURDERS.

3. THE UNC SECRETARY SHOULD CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE NORTH KOREAN SECRETARY. QUOTE: AT THE MAC MEETING OF AUGUST 28 YOUR SIDE STATED THAT THERE IS NO MAJOR DIFFERENCE IN OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. (PARA 4 CINCUNC 281330Z). BOTH SIDES REFERRED TO ASSURANCES REGARDING THE SAFETY OF PERSONNEL IN THE JSA. OUR SIDE HAS ALWAYS TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE SUCH SAFETY AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. UNLESS YOU STIPULATE OTHERWISE, WE SHALL INTERPRET YOUR STATEMENTS AT AUGUST 28 MAC MEETING AS INDICATING ASSURANCE OF SAFETY OF OUR PERSONNEL, AND AS CONFIRMING THAT THE REMOVAL OF YOUR GUARDPOSTS FROM THE UNC SIDE OF THE MDL WILL BE PART OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE JSA. ON THAT BASIS, WE ARE PREPARED TO ATTEND A SECRETARY'S MEETING TO BEGIN TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF THOSE NEW ARRANGEMENTS. UNQUOTE

4. YOUR OBJECTIVE AT THE FIRST SECRETARY'S MEETING SHOULD BE TO START PROCESS OF ACHIEVING CONCRETE ARRANGEMENTS IN CONSONANCE WITH PARA 3 ABOVE, THAT WILL BE VIABLE FOR FUTURE, AND THAT CAN BE REACHED REASONABLY SOON.

5. YOU SHOULD ARRANGE FOR REMOVAL OF NORTH KOREAN GUARD POSTS ON OUR SIDE OF MDL AND REQUEST ISSUANCE OF ORDERS PROHIBITING PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH PERSONNEL OF OTHER SIDE. WITH RESPECT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF UNARMED PERSONNEL, OUR SIDE SHOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON SUCH RIGHT, AS PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL. WE UNDERSTAND PRACTICAL PROBLEMS THAT THIS INVOLVES, BUT WE WANT TO RETAIN POSSIBILITY OF ACCESS TO NORTHERN PORTION OF JSA AND MAINTAIN CHARACTER OF JSA AS NEUTRAL AREA.

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6. PRIOR TO CONVEYING MESSAGE PARA 3 TO NORTH KOREAN SECRETARY YOU SHOULD INFORM ROKG OF OUR INTENTION AND OUR REASONING AS GIVEN ABOVE.

EAGLEBURGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, DMZ, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, BORDER CONTROLS, BORDER GUARDS, PERSONNEL SECURITY, MEETINGS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE214441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EHURWITZ; EA:OARMSTRONG:CHG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840089-2259, N760006-0541
From: STATE JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976089/aaaaahjo.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS; EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 381 ST MAC MEEING
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, KS, KN, MAC
To: SEOUL CINCUNC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006